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Judiciary Committee

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony of Delegate Ron Watson

FAVORABLE REPORT for HB0716

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day

Good Afternoon Chairman Pendergrass and members of the Committee,

This Bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen commemoration Day. In the early 1940s, after Succumbing to public pressure the army decided to train a small number of African American Pilot cadets under special conditions. In 1941, the army awarded a contract to Tuskegee Institute to operate a primary flight school at Morton Field. Tuskegee Institute was one of a very few American institutions, and the only African American institution , to own , develop , and control facilities for military flight instruction We are honored to have a Tuskegee Airmen with us today Major Anderson a hero who was a mechanic that ensured our airmen were in flight. Members these heroes deserve this day lets recognize the airmen I urge a favorable report.